



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

For Meeting Date: December 11, 2008

Agenda Item No. 15: Presentation of Select 2008 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Twelve Active Surface Mining Sites for Acceptance Consideration by the State Mining and Geology Board.

INTRODUCTION: The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) serves as the lead agency under SMARA for forty-eight (48) individual mining operations located in two counties (El Dorado County and Yuba County), eleven (11) San Francisco Bay dredging operations, and ten (10) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for twelve surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:

The 2008 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's November 13, 2008, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration by the SMGB are as follows:

- Richmond (Chevron) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0006), City of Richmond.
- Pt. Richmond (Canal) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0007), City of Richmond.
- Cool Cave Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0005), El Dorado County.
- Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0015), El Dorado County.
- Atkinson Pit I (CA Mine ID #91-19-0004), City of Compton.
- Super Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-33-0003), City of Desert Hot Springs.
- Garnet Pit (CA Mine ID #91-33-0031), City of Palm Springs.
- Adobe Road Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-52-0039), City of Red Bluff.
- Teichert Hallwood Facility (CA Mine ID #91-58-0006), Yuba County.
- Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013), Yuba County.
- Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #1 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0022), Yuba County.
- Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #2 (formerly Garcia Sand & Gravel), (CA Mine ID #91-58-0023), Yuba County.

A summary of violations and corrective measures per surface mining operation is presented below.

Richmond (Chevron) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0006): At time of inspection, October 16, 2008, three ongoing violations were noted:



Executive Officer's Report

- The west-southwest facing quarry cut slope shows evidence of failure and is considered to be potentially unstable.
- Mining-related activities (slope instability features) are beyond the footprint of the approved reclamation plan.
- Revegetation of the quarry slopes does not meet the criteria set forth in the approved reclamation plan.

The following corrective measures were noted:

- The west-southwest facing cut slope requires continued monitoring for overall slope stability and mitigation of failures observed at time of inspection. Such work should continue to be performed by a California licensed geotechnical engineer and/or certified engineering geologist.
- The revegetation efforts should continue to be implemented to meet the criteria set forth in the approved reclamation plan.
- The existing approved Reclamation Plan does not reflect current operations (i.e., recycling facility), and requires updating and clarification for completeness. An amended reclamation plan for the site should include scaled maps, sections and other pertinent illustrations, current and future phased areas of operations/reclamation, erosion control measures, grading plan (if required), revegetation plan and complementary performance standards.
- The financial assurance amount should be re-evaluated, and adjusted as appropriate, to reflect mitigation of the unstable west-facing cut-slope, remaining mining-related disturbance, reclamation of the existing recycle material stockpile, potential additional revegetation efforts, monitoring requirements, and current labor, fuel, and equipment rates.

Point Richmond (Canal) Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-07-0007): No Violations were noted at time of inspection, October 16, 2008.

Cool Cave Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0005): No Violations were noted at time of inspection, September 15, 2008.

Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0015): No violations were noted at time of inspection, September 22, 2008; however, the following corrective measures are offered:



- Maintenance of sediment and erosion control structures on and adjacent to the southern and western fill slopes should continue on a regular basis. Such maintenance should specifically include regular grading of the intervening bench on the southern and southwestern fill slope.
- When expansion of mining commences in the future, all topsoil should be stockpiled in a designated demarcated area in a manner consistent with criteria stated in the approved Reclamation Plan.

Additionally, it is recommended that if mining operations are not anticipated to resume during 2009, than an Interim Management Plan (IMP) should be prepared and submitted to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per PRC Section 2770(h).

Atkinson Pit No. 1 (CA Mine ID #91-19-0004): No violations were noted at time of inspection, September 30, 2008; however, the following corrective measures are offered:

- The operator intends to continue with engineered backfill activities such that the entire excavated pit is backfilled to the natural ground surface. As such, the operator should provide a revised Reclamation Plan Map (with accompanying cross sections) to the SMGB.
- A revised financial assurance cost estimate, as required per California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 3804(c), should be submitted to the SMGB for review and approval consideration.

Super Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-33-0003): At time of inspection, October 29, 2008, four ongoing violations were noted:

- Slope instability: Existing tailings slopes are over steepened in some areas and have not been demonstrated to be stable.
- Inadequate soil erosion control measures: Fine material continues to erode from the tailings slopes in amounts that could potentially impact Super Creek if aggressive monitoring and maintenance of the recently installed sediment catchment structures is not adhered to.
- Off-site encroachment: Surface mining activities have occurred beyond the boundary of the approved reclamation plan. The drainage has also been impacted by inadequate soil erosion control measures.



- Inadequate revegetation efforts: The revegetation program has not been implemented in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

The following corrective measure was offered:

- An amended reclamation plan that adequately addresses the above violations should be completed.

The following recommendation was offered:

- The financial assurance amount should be revised following SMGB and OMR review and comment upon the recently submitted revised amended reclamation plan for the Super Creek Quarry expansion.

Garnet Pit (CA Mine ID #91-33-0006): No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection, October 28, 2008.

Adobe Road Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-52-0039): No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection, November 21, 2008.

Teichert Hallwood Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0006): No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection, October 15, 2008.

Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013): No violations were noted at time of inspection, September 17, 2008.

One corrective measure was noted at time of inspection regarding the existing tension cracks observed in overburden placed to the west and east of the quarry area. The overburden areas affected by the tension cracks should be repaired as soon as possible per recommendations offered by GEOCON Consultants, Inc. in their site reconnaissance letter dated July 28, 2008.

Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #1 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0022): No violations were noted at time of inspection, September 17, 2008. However, the amount of disturbed acreage continues to be significantly understated and needs to be correctly stated in future mining operation annual reports.

Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #2 (formerly Garcia Sand and Gravel) (CA Mine ID #91-58-0023): No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection, September 17, 2008.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the twelve 2008 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings contained herewith to their respective local lead agency and each mine operator.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

To Accept Twelve 2008 SMARA surface mine inspection reports:

Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the twelve 2008 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings to the respective local lead agencies and each mine operator. These surface mining operations are the Richmond (Chevron) Quarry, Point Richmond (Canal) Quarry, Cool Cave Quarry, Marin Quarry, Atkinson Pit No. 1, Super Creek Quarry, Garnet Pit, Adobe Road Borrow Pit, Teichert Hallwood Plant, Parks Bar Quarry, Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #1, and Silica Resources, Inc. Stringer Pit #2.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer

